

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY11 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ08 VIRGIN RIVER CANYON RECREATION
AREA

STATE: AZ

Fee Project Contact: Jon Jasper, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Phone: (435) 688-3264

Email: jjasper@blm.gov

AREA DESCRIPTION:

The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area is surrounded by the scenery of cliff walls of the Beaver Dam Mountains and Paiute Wilderness areas, and the river riparian of the Virgin River Corridor ACEC. The recreation area is located on Interstate 15, about a 20-minute drive south from St George, Utah, and 20-minute drive north of Mesquite, Nevada. The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area consists of a campground, a closed rest area, and a day-use area. This fee project also includes receipts from the sale of the America the Beautiful Interagency Passes.

The Virgin River Campground consists of 77 sites and a 2 flush-toilet, heated/AC, restroom facility. Most sites have picnic tables, some with covered picnic tables, and a few sites have areas for tent use.

The Virgin River Day-Use Area consists of 38 sites and flush-toilet, heated/AC restroom facility. The site is also an access point to an interpretative trail, a trailhead into the Pauite Wilderness area, and boat launch for the Virgin River.

The Cedar Pockets Rest Area was donated to the BLM by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The rest area initially consisted of several sheltered areas, a house, water system and a parking lot. All of these facilities have been removed, except for the water system that feeds the campground and day-use areas.

The project also includes the America the Beautiful interagency passes that are sold at the BLM Visitor's Center in St George, Utah.

FEE SCHEDULE:

Virgin River Campground: \$8/night; \$90 month

Virgin River Day Use: \$2/site; \$15 reservation fee

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY11:

Visitor Services, Interpretation: Recreation fee revenues provided support for the campground host couple that helped maintain the area. These hosts maintained the bathrooms, watched over the site, and helped visitors. The host also maintained two other sites (Little Black Mountain Petroglyph site and Mt

Trumbull Schoolhouse) throughout the year, and for a short period maintained three Utah sites (Red Cliffs Campground, Gooseberry Trailhead, and Cottonwood Trailhead). The trash removal and bathroom cleaning services provided by the campground host will be covered under a service contract next year.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement: Recreation fee revenues were used to repair a water leak and the electrical damage to water system, and to install and stain new redwood tops on picnic tables.

Other projects that were completed at the recreation area are listed below. These projects were not funded with recreation revenues.

- Used ADOT funds to remove the structures that remained of the Cedar Pocket Rest Area (parking lot, shade structures).
- Used ADOT funds to complete a Safety Audit. This including cleaning up storage spaces, fixing electrical and plumbing problems, adding safety shut off to the water system, barriers to propane tanks, and adding safety signs and labels
- Used remaining ADOT funds to add 2 double-sized, group shade shelters in the day-use area.
- Completed ARRA project to add solar field and other energy saving features
- Completed ARRA project to replace the shade shelters and add handicap stalls to meet Accessibility requirements.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY12:

Using recreation fee revenues, the following projects/activities are planned:

- Replace the tar roofing to all the bathrooms.
- Establish a service contract to clean bathrooms and remove trash.
- Repair damage to bathroom roofs from leaking sump coolers.
- Paint the bathrooms to match the new shade structures.
- Update the signage throughout the campground.
- Remove the RV shelter from the day-use area.